

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Endo et al. (5,064,276).

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings as originally filed with this application.

Claim Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claims 21-38 would be allowable if written in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 20 to include the limitations of claim 21. Applicant has also chosen to cancel claim 21. In addition, claims 22-38 have been amended in response to the Examiner's objections thereto. As a result, all claims now recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are rendered moot and no response is deemed necessary.

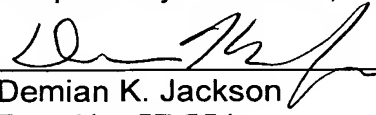
Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Date: December 8, 2006

By:

Respectfully submitted,


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